

# The width of $\Theta^+$ for large $N_c$ in chiral quark soliton model

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## Abstract

In the chiral quark soliton model the smallness of  $\Theta^+$  width is due to the cancellation of the coupling constants which are of different order in  $N_c$ . We show that taking properly into account the flavor structure of relevant SU(3) representations for arbitrary number of colors enhances the nonleading term by an additional factor of  $N_c$ , making the cancellation consistent with the  $N_c$  counting. Moreover, we show that, for the same reason,  $\Theta^+$  width is suppressed by a group-theoretical factor  $\mathcal{O}(1/N_c)$  with respect to  $\Delta$  and discuss the  $N_c$  dependence of the phase space factors for these two decays.

PACS numbers: 12.39.Dc, 12.40.Yx, 13.30.Eg, 14.20.Jh

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## I. INTRODUCTION

Recently five experiments announced discovery of a narrow, exotic baryonic state called  $\Theta^+$  [1]. Most probably this state belongs to the positive parity baryon antidecuplet, which naturally emerges in chiral soliton models [2, 3, 4]. Early prediction of its mass [3] obtained in the Skyrme model [5] extended to three flavors [6] is in surprising agreement with the present experimental findings. Moreover, if the discovery of the heaviest members of the antidecuplet,  $\Xi_{3/2}$ , announced by NA49 collaboration [7] at 1860 MeV is confirmed, again the same model will be off only by 70 MeV [3].

However, the most striking experimental result is perhaps a very small width  $\Gamma_{\Theta^+}$  which is estimated to be of the order of a few tens MeV or less [1]. Such a narrow width was predicted in a seminal paper by Diakonov, Petrov and Polyakov [4] within the SU(3) chiral quark soliton model ( $\chi$ QSM). The smallness of  $\Gamma_{\Theta^+}$  in this model is due to the cancellation of the coupling constants which enter the collective decay operator. It is, however, at first sight to some extent unnatural that the cancellation occurs between the constants which are of different order in the number of colors,  $N_c$ . If only the leading term were retained, the width of  $\Theta^+$  would be of the same order as  $\Gamma_{\Delta}$  [4, 8].

In this note we show that in fact this cancellation occurs order by order in  $N_c$ . This is due to the fact that the additional factor of  $N_c$  appears when one properly takes into account the SU(3) flavor representation content of the lowest lying baryonic states. Indeed, for arbitrary number of colors, baryons do not fall into ordinary flavor octet, decuplet and antidecuplet, but are members of large SU(3) representations [9, 10, 11], which reduce to the standard ones only for  $N_c = 3$ . Taking this extra  $N_c$  dependence into account makes the SU(3) Clebsch-Gordan coefficients depend on  $N_c$ .

We also find that group-theoretical factors suppress  $\Gamma_{\Theta^+}$  with respect to  $\Gamma_{\Delta}$ . This suppression is, however, "undone" by the phase space factor, which scales differently with  $N_c$  in the chiral limit.

## II. LARGE $N_c$ LIMIT

Both in the Skyrme model [5, 6] and in the  $\chi$ QSM [12, 13] baryons emerge as rotational states of the symmetric top which rotates in the SU(3) collective space [3, 6]. This rotation is described in terms of a rotational SU(3) matrix  $A(t)$ . Baryonic wave functions [4, 6, 13, 14] are given as SU(3) Wigner  $D_{BJ}^{(\mathcal{R})}(A)$  matrices [15]:

$$\psi_{BS}^{(\mathcal{R})}(A) = \psi_{(\mathcal{R},B)(\mathcal{R}^*,S)}(A) = (-)^{Q_S} \sqrt{\dim(\mathcal{R})} D_{BJ}^{(\mathcal{R})*}(A). \quad (1)$$

In this notation  $B = (Y, I, I_3)$  with  $Y$  being hypercharge,  $I$  and  $I_3$  isospin and its third component. Left index  $S = (Y_R = -N_c/3, S, S_3)$  and  $J = (-Y_R = N_c/3, S, -S_3)$  is a state conjugate to  $S$ . The fact that the right index runs only over the SU(2) subspace of the SU(3) representation  $\mathcal{R}$  follows from the form of the hedgehog ansatz for the static soliton field and the Wess-Zumino term [6, 16].  $Q_S$  is the charge of state  $S$ . Note that under the action of left (flavor) generators  $\hat{T}_\alpha = -D_{\alpha\beta}^{(8)} \hat{J}_\beta$   $\psi_{B\mathcal{R}}$  transforms like a tensor in representation  $\mathcal{R}$ , while under the right generators  $\hat{J}_\alpha$  like a tensor in  $\mathcal{R}^*$  rather than  $\mathcal{R}$ .

For  $N_c = 3$   $Y_R = -1$  and the lowest allowed SU(3) representations are those of triality zero: 8, 10,  $\overline{10}$ , 27 etc. In large  $N_c$  limit, however, these representations are generalized in

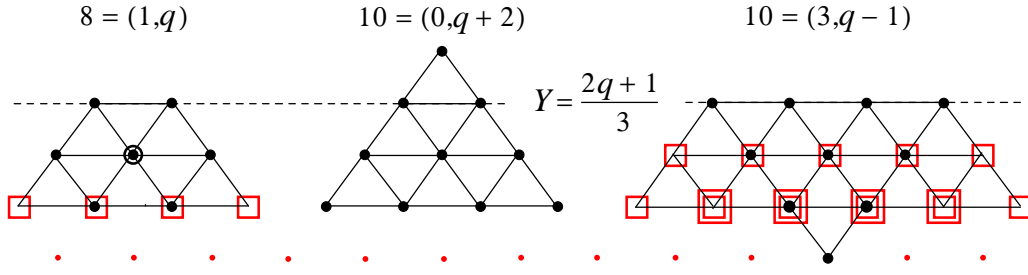


FIG. 1: Generalizations of octet, antidecuplet and decuplet for large  $N_c$ . Bold dots and circles denote physical states, squares and dots at the bottom denote spurious states which disappear in the limit  $q \rightarrow 1$ .

the following way [9, 10] (other possible choices are discussed in Ref.[11]):

$${}^{\prime\prime}8^{\prime\prime} = (1, q), \quad {}^{\prime\prime}10^{\prime\prime} = (3, q - 1), \quad {}^{\prime\prime}\overline{10}^{\prime\prime} = (0, q + 2) \quad (2)$$

where

$$q = \frac{N_c - 1}{2}. \quad (3)$$

Note that in this notation anti-ten is not a conjugate of decuplet, neither is an octet selfadjoint. Therefore we shall denote a complex conjugate by a  $*$ :

$$\mathcal{R}^* = (p, q)^* = (q, p). \quad (4)$$

For large representations like (2) physical flavor states have hypercharge different from the one in the real world, however isospin, charge and strangeness take the physical values. This is depicted in Fig. 1.

Baryon masses are given in terms of the effective hamiltonian

$$M = M_{sol} + \frac{1}{2I_1}S(S+1) + \frac{1}{2I_2} \left( C_2(\mathcal{R}) - S(S+1) - \frac{N_c^2}{12} \right)$$

where  $C_2(\mathcal{R}) = (p^2 + q^2 + pq + 3(p+q))/3$  is the Casimir operator for representation  $\mathcal{R} = (p, q)$  and  $M_{sol} = \mathcal{O}(N_c)$  is the classical soliton mass. It is easy to convince oneself that in the chiral limit nonexotic splittings scale like  $\mathcal{O}(1/N_c)$  while exotic-nonexotic like  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ , e.g.:

$$\begin{aligned} M_{\Delta} - M_N &\sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{N_c}\right), \\ M_{\Theta} - M_N &\sim \mathcal{O}(1). \end{aligned} \quad (5)$$

The fact that  $\Theta - N$  mass difference is of the order of 1 was used to argue that the rigid-rotor quantization of the chiral soliton is not valid for exotic states [17]. The discussion of this point is beyond the scope of the present paper, let us however note, that arguments have been also given in favor of the rigid-rotor quantization [18] despite Eq.(5)

### III. DECAY WIDTH

The baryon-meson ( $\kappa$ ) coupling operator can be written in terms of the collective coordinates as [4]:

$$\hat{O}_\kappa = -i \frac{3}{2M_B} \left[ G_0 \hat{O}_{\kappa A}^{(0)} - G_1 \hat{O}_{\kappa A}^{(1)} - G_2 \hat{O}_{\kappa A}^{(2)} \right] p_A. \quad (6)$$

where

$$\hat{O}_{\kappa A}^{(0)} = D_{\kappa A}^{(8)}, \quad \hat{O}_{\kappa A}^{(1)} = d_{Abc} D_{\kappa b}^{(8)} \hat{S}_c, \quad \hat{O}_{\kappa A}^{(2)} = \frac{1}{\sqrt{3}} D_{\kappa 8}^{(8)} \hat{S}_A. \quad (7)$$

Here  $\hat{S}_a$  are generalized spin right SU(3) generators related to the known "isospin",  $V$ -spin and  $U$ -spin operators in the following way

$$\hat{I}_3 = \hat{S}_3, \quad \hat{I}_\pm = \hat{S}_1 \pm i\hat{S}_2, \quad V_\pm = \hat{S}_4 \pm i\hat{S}_5, \quad U_\pm = \hat{S}_6 \pm i\hat{S}_7, \quad \hat{Y} = \frac{2}{\sqrt{3}} \hat{S}_8. \quad (8)$$

Note that these operators act on the right index of the wave function (1), for which "isospin" is related to the physical spin. We have adopted here a convention that Greek indices run over all possible values:  $\alpha, \beta, \dots, \kappa = 1 \dots, 8$ , capital Latin indices over the SU(2) subgroup:  $A, B \dots = 1, 2, 3$  and small Latin indices  $a, b, c, \dots = 4, 5, 6, 7$ . In order to calculate the width for the decay  $B \rightarrow B' + \kappa$  we have to evaluate the matrix element of  $\hat{O}_\kappa$  between the baryon wave functions, square it, average over initial and sum over final spin and isospin [4]:

$$\overline{\mathcal{M}}_B^2 = \frac{1}{(2I_B + 1)(2S_B + 1)} \sum_{I_{B3}, S_{B3}} \sum_{I_{B'3}, S_{B'3}} \left| \left\langle B', S_{B'3} \left| \hat{O}_\kappa \right| B, S_{B3} \right\rangle \right|^2 \quad (9)$$

Coupling constants  $G_i$  are related to the axial-vector couplings by a Goldberger-Treiman relation and scale differently with  $N_c$ :

$$G_0 \sim N_c^{3/2}, \quad G_1, G_2 \sim N_c^{1/2}. \quad (10)$$

Finally, in order to get the width one has to multiply (9) by the phase space volume and the final result reads

$$\Gamma_B = \frac{1}{2\pi} \overline{\mathcal{M}}_B^2 p \quad (11)$$

where

$$p = |\vec{p}_\kappa| = \frac{\sqrt{(M^2 - (M' + m_\kappa)^2)(M^2 - (M' - m_\kappa)^2)}}{2M} \quad (12)$$

is the momentum of meson  $\kappa$ . In Ref.[4] Eq.(11) was multiplied by a ratio of the baryon masses which is important for the numerical results, which, however, scales as  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  with  $N_c$  and therefore is irrelevant for further discussion.

The action of the  $D$  functions entering the collective operators can be calculated with the help of the SU(3) Clebsch-Gordan coefficients [19, 20]:

$$\begin{aligned} & \dim(\mathcal{R}_3) \int dA D_{B_3 J_3}^{(\mathcal{R}_3)*}(A) D_{B_2 J_2}^{(\mathcal{R}_2)}(A) D_{B_1 J_1}^{(\mathcal{R}_1)}(A) \\ &= \sum_\gamma \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} \mathcal{R}_1 & \mathcal{R}_2 & \mathcal{R}_3^\gamma \\ B_1 & B_2 & B_3 \end{array} \right) \left( \begin{array}{cc|c} \mathcal{R}_1 & \mathcal{R}_2 & \mathcal{R}_3^\gamma \\ J_1 & J_2 & J_3 \end{array} \right) \end{aligned} \quad (13)$$

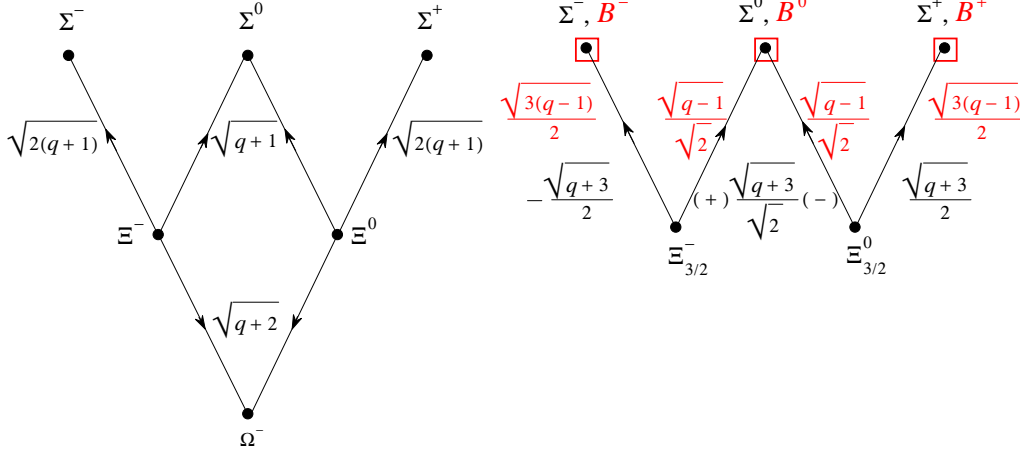


FIG. 2: Action of  $U_{\pm}$  and  $V_{\pm}$  operators on spin  $S_3 = \pm 1/2$  states belonging to antidecuplet  $\mathcal{R}^* = (q+2, 0)$  and decuplet  $\mathcal{R}^* = (q-1, 3)$ . In the latter case the upper entries refer to the transitions to the spurious states  $B$ .

where  $\gamma$  is the degeneracy index. In order to calculate matrix elements of (7) between wave functions (1) we shall also use the action of the operators  $V_{\pm}$  and  $U_{\pm}$  on the spin states [19]:

$$\begin{aligned} U_+ & \nearrow \quad \nwarrow V_+ \\ V_- & \swarrow \quad \searrow U_- \end{aligned} \quad (14)$$

Note that the spin states belong to  $\mathcal{R}^*$ . The relevant action is depicted in Fig.2.

Finally we shall need Clebsch-Gordan coefficients for large  $SU(3)$  representations (2). Here we list the Clebsch-Gordan series for the highest weights in two cases relevant to the present calculation [9, 10]:

$$\begin{aligned} |"10", \Delta^{++}\rangle &= \sqrt{\frac{q}{q+1}} |8, \pi^+\rangle \otimes |"8", p\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{1}{q+1}} |8, K^+\rangle \otimes |"8", \Sigma^+\rangle, \\ |"10", \Theta^+\rangle &= \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} |8, K^0\rangle \otimes |"8", p\rangle - \sqrt{\frac{1}{2}} |8, K^+\rangle \otimes |"8", n\rangle. \end{aligned} \quad (15)$$

Remaining Clebsch-Gordan coefficients can be found by applying lowering operators to (15).

The result of the calculations are as follows (for spin down states and  $\vec{p} = (0, 0, p)$ ):

- $\Delta \rightarrow \pi N$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle N | \hat{O}_{\pi} | \Delta \rangle &= -i \frac{3}{M_N + M_{\Delta}} \left( \begin{array}{c} 8 \text{ } "8" \\ \pi \quad N \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{c} "10" \\ \Delta \end{array} \right) \sqrt{\frac{q+3}{3(q+4)}} \\ &\quad \cdot \left[ G_0 + \frac{1}{2} G_1 \right] \cdot p, \end{aligned} \quad (16)$$

- $\Theta^+ \rightarrow KN$

$$\begin{aligned} \langle N | \hat{O}_K | \Theta^+ \rangle &= -i \frac{3}{M_N + M_{\Theta^+}} \left( \begin{array}{c|c} 8 & "8" \\ K & N \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{c} "10" \\ \Theta^+ \end{array} \right) \sqrt{\frac{q+1}{2(q+2)(q+4)}} \\ &\cdot \left[ G_0 - \frac{q+1}{2} G_1 - \frac{1}{2} G_2 \right] \cdot p. \end{aligned} \quad (17)$$

For  $\Delta$  decay we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\mathcal{M}}_\Delta^2 &= \frac{3}{(M_N + M_\Delta)^2} \frac{q(q+3)}{2(q+1)(q+4)} \left[ G_0 + \frac{1}{2} G_1 \right]^2 p^2 \\ &\quad \frac{3}{(M_N + M_\Delta)^2} \frac{(N_c - 1)(N_c + 5)}{2(N_c + 1)(N_c + 7)} \left[ G_0 + \frac{1}{2} G_1 \right]^2 p^2. \end{aligned} \quad (18)$$

whereas for  $\Theta^+$  we have:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\mathcal{M}}_\Theta^2 &= \frac{3}{(M_N + M_\Theta)^2} \frac{3(q+1)}{2(q+2)(q+4)} \left[ G_0 - \frac{q+1}{2} G_1 - \frac{1}{2} G_2 \right]^2 p^2 \\ &\quad \frac{3}{(M_N + M_\Theta)^2} \frac{3(N_c + 1)}{(N_c + 3)(N_c + 7)} \left[ G_0 - \frac{N_c + 1}{4} G_1 - \frac{1}{2} G_2 \right]^2 p^2. \end{aligned} \quad (19)$$

Two important remarks are here in order. First of all, and this is our main result announced in the Introduction, for  $\Theta^+$  decay constant  $G_1$  is enhanced by a factor of  $N_c$  and therefore the second term in Eq.(19) is of the same order as  $G_0$ . These two terms cancel against each other yielding numerically  $\Theta^+$  width much smaller than the width of  $\Delta$ . This cancellation is therefore consistent with  $N_c$  counting and justifies the use of nonleading terms in the decay operator (6).

Secondly, the overall factor in front of  $[\dots] \times p^2$  is  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  for  $\Delta \rightarrow \pi N$  and  $\mathcal{O}(1/N_c)$  for  $\Theta^+ \rightarrow KN$ . This effect, as can be seen from Es.(16,17), is entirely due to the "spin" part of the matrix elements  $\langle B' | \hat{O}_\kappa | B \rangle$ . Indeed, flavor Clebsch-Gordan coefficients in Es.(16,17) scale as  $\mathcal{O}(1)$  with  $N_c$ , as can be inferred from Es.(15). This is, however, not a complete  $N_c$  dependence, since momentum  $p$  also depends on  $N_c$ . We shall come back to this dependence in a moment.

After multiplying by the phase factors we get:

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma_\Delta &= \frac{3}{2\pi(M_N + M_\Delta)^2} \frac{(N_c - 1)(N_c + 5)}{2(N_c + 1)(N_c + 7)} \left[ G_0 + \frac{1}{2} G_1 \right]^2 p^3, \\ \Gamma_\Theta &= \frac{3}{2\pi(M_N + M_\Theta)^2} \frac{3(N_c + 1)}{(N_c + 3)(N_c + 7)} \left[ G_0 - \frac{N_c + 1}{4} G_1 - \frac{1}{2} G_2 \right]^2 p^3 \end{aligned} \quad (20)$$

where  $p$  is given by Eq.(12). In the chiral limit  $m_\kappa = 0$

$$p = \frac{(M - M')(M + M')}{2M}. \quad (21)$$

Since the difference  $M - M'$  scales differently with  $N_c$  for  $\Delta$  and  $\Theta^+$  decays (5):

$$\Delta \rightarrow \pi N \quad p_\pi \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{N_c}\right), \quad \Theta \rightarrow KN \quad p_K \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \quad (22)$$

and the overall scaling for the widths reads

$$\Gamma_{\Delta} \sim \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{N_c^2}\right), \quad \Gamma_{\Theta} \sim \mathcal{O}(1). \quad (23)$$

It is interesting to ask at this point how well the  $N_c$  scaling arguments work numerically in Nature. For the mass differences we get (assuming  $M_{\Theta^+} = 1540$ ,  $M_{\Xi_{3/2}} = 1860$  MeV, which gives  $\overline{M}_{10} = 1752$  MeV for the average antidecuplet mass):

$$\overline{M}_{10} - \overline{M}_8 = 234, \quad \overline{M}_{10} - \overline{M}_8 = 601 \quad (24)$$

(in MeV) which is in a reasonable agreement with an expected factor of  $N_c = 3$ , see Eq.(5). As far as the phase-space factor is concerned, the physical value of the meson momentum reads (in MeV)

$$p_{\pi} = 225, \quad p_K = 268 \quad (25)$$

and it is hard to argue that the scaling of Eq.(22) really holds. Formally for  $m_{\kappa} \neq 0$  meson momentum  $p$  scales in both cases [24] as  $\mathcal{O}(1)$ . In that case:

$$\Gamma_{\Delta} \sim \mathcal{O}(N_c), \quad \Gamma_{\Theta} \sim \mathcal{O}(1) \quad (26)$$

which would explain parametrically the narrowness of  $\Theta^+$  with respect to  $\Delta$ .

#### IV. NONRELATIVISTIC LIMIT

Coupling constants  $G_{0,1,2}$  are related to the axial couplings through Goldberger-Treiman relation. On the other hand we know explicit model formulae for these couplings [14, 21]:

$$G_0 \sim A_0 - \frac{A_1^{(-)}}{I_1^{(+)}}, \quad G_1 \sim 2 \frac{A_2^{(+)}}{I_2^{(+)}}, \quad G_2 \sim 2 \frac{A_1^{(+)}}{I_1^{(+)}} \quad (27)$$

up to the same proportionality factor of the order of  $M_B/F_{\pi} \sim \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{N_c})$ . Explicit formulae and numerical values of the inertia parameters  $A$  and  $I$  can be found in Ref.[14]. If in the  $\chi$ QSM one artificially sets the soliton size  $r_0 \rightarrow 0$ , then the model reduces to the free valence quarks which, however, "remember" the soliton structure [22]. In this limit, many quantities, like the axial-vector couplings, are given as ratios of the group-theoretical factors [21]:

$$A_0 \rightarrow -N_c, \quad \frac{A_1^{(+)}}{I_1^{(+)}} \rightarrow -1, \quad \frac{A_1^{(-)}}{I_1^{(+)}} \rightarrow 2, \quad \frac{A_2^{(+)}}{I_2^{(+)}} \rightarrow -2. \quad (28)$$

With these values we get that the nucleon axial coupling [21, 22]

$$g_A \longrightarrow \frac{N_c + 2}{3} = \frac{5}{3} \quad (29)$$

which is the well known naive quark model result [23].

For the antidecuplet decay strength we get:

$$\begin{aligned}
G_{\overline{10}} &= G_0 - \frac{N_c + 1}{4} G_1 - \frac{1}{2} G_2 \\
&\sim \left( A_0 - \frac{A_1^{(-)}}{I_1^{(+)}} \right) - \frac{N_c + 1}{2} \frac{A_2^{(+)}}{I_2^{(+)}} - \frac{A_1^{(+)}}{I_1^{(+)}} \\
&= \left( A_0 - \frac{N_c}{2} \frac{A_2^{(+)}}{I_2^{(+)}} \right) + \left( -\frac{A_1^{(-)}}{I_1^{(+)}} - \frac{1}{2} \frac{A_2^{(+)}}{I_2^{(+)}} - \frac{A_1^{(+)}}{I_1^{(+)}} \right) \\
&\longrightarrow \left( -N_c + \frac{N_c}{2} 2 \right) + \left( -2 + \frac{1}{2} 2 + 1 \right) = 0.
\end{aligned} \tag{30}$$

We see that the cancellation is exact in each order in  $N_c$  [25].

Let us speculate that the cancellation of the leading order terms in (30) is exact. Then  $G_{\overline{10}} \sim \mathcal{O}(\sqrt{N_c})$  while  $G_{10} \sim \mathcal{O}(N_c^{3/2})$ . In this case we would get

$$\begin{aligned}
\Gamma_{\Delta} &\sim \mathcal{O}(N_c) \times p^3 \rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{N_c^2}) & m_{\kappa} = 0 \\ \mathcal{O}(N_c) & m_{\kappa} \neq 0 \end{cases} \\
\Gamma_{\Theta} &\sim \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{N_c^2}) \times p^3 \rightarrow \begin{cases} \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{N_c^2}) & m_{\kappa} = 0 \\ \mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{N_c^2}) & m_{\kappa} \neq 0 \end{cases}
\end{aligned} \tag{31}$$

which would mean that in the chiral limit both decay widths scale as  $\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{N_c^2})$  while for  $m_{\kappa} \neq 0$   $\Theta^+$  decay is damped by a factor  $\mathcal{O}(N_c^3)$  with respect to  $\Delta$ .

## V. SUMMARY

Our primary goal was to show that the cancellation which takes place in the case of the  $\Theta^+$  width is consistent with the  $N_c$  counting. Indeed, by employing correct generalizations of standard SU(3) representations for arbitrary number of colors, we have shown that there is additional  $N_c$  enhancement of the constant  $G_1$  which is formally one power of  $N_c$  less than  $G_0$ . This enhancement comes entirely from the spin part of the matrix elements  $\langle B' | \hat{O}_{\kappa} | B \rangle$  and carries over to the decays of all particles in antidecuplet.

We have also found that there is  $\mathcal{O}(1/N_c)$  suppression factor in the  $\Theta^+$  width with respect to  $\Delta$ , coming from the same source, namely from the  $N_c$  dependence of the SU(3)<sub>flavor</sub> Gelfand-Gordan coefficients. Unfortunately, this suppression is "undone" by the phase space factor  $p^3$ , which in the chiral limit scales differently for  $\Theta^+$  and  $\Delta$  decays (22). If we assume that meson masses are nonzero, then the suppression survives (26). This kind of "noncommutativity" of the chiral limit and large  $N_c$  expansion is well known and there are many examples where it creates problems.

Finally, we have shown that in the nonrelativistic quark model limit, i.e. in the limit where we artificially squeeze the soliton, the cancellation in the decay strength for  $\Theta^+$  is exact and occurs independently at each order of  $N_c$ . In this limit  $\Theta^+$  width vanishes identically.

## Acknowledgments

The author would like to thank Dmitri Diakonov for stimulating discussion and Thomas Cohen for useful remarks. This work has been partially supported by the Polish State



Committee for Scientific Research under grant 2 P03B 043 24 and it has been authored under Contract No. DE-AC02-98CH10886 with the U. S. Department of Energy.

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and the decay does not occur.

[25] I am grateful to D.I. Diakonov for pointing out this cancellation.